IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) Method of providing at least one bearer service through a ~~heterogenous~~ heterogeneous wireless network including a plurality of wireless connections in support of ~~for~~ at least one application running at a mobile endpoint,

~~characterized by~~ comprising the steps:

detecting an operational context ~~as~~ including characteristics of the mobile endpoint, characteristics of at least one application running at the mobile endpoint, characteristics of application data to be transferred, and/or availability and capability of at least one bearer service;

dynamically optimizing among bearer service providers and related set up or tear down of ~~selecting at least one bearer service and setting up/tearing down related~~ wireless connections provided through the ~~heterogenous~~ heterogeneous wireless network according to the ~~determine~~ detected operational context.

57. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 56, ~~characterized in that it comprises the~~further comprising a step of updating bearer services and/or related bearer capabilities in a bearer configuration memory.

58. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 57, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the step of updating bearer services and/or related bearer capabilities in a bearer configuration memory is executed event driven or at pre-determination points in time.

59. (Currently amended) ~~method~~ Method according to claim 56, ~~characterized in that it comprises the~~ further comprising a step of registering active applications running at the mobile endpoint.

60. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 59, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the step of registering active applications further registers application requirements.

61. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 60, ~~characterized in that~~wherein application requirements are selected from a group comprising application configuration requirement and application priority.

62. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 59, ~~characterized in that~~wherein application ~~realted~~ related information is stored in a selection table.

63. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 59, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the step of dynamically optimizing among bearer service providers ~~selecting bearer services~~ further comprises the steps of:

negotiating at least one communication request existing for the active application against a bearer capability of the heterogeneous wireless network; and

updating at least one assignment of an active application to an available bearer service in the heterogeneous wireless network in accordance with a negotiation result.

64. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 63, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the step of negotiating comprises a step of generating a list of active applications in order of priority and generating a list of available bearer services and/or related bearer capabilities in the heterogeneous wireless network.

65. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 64, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the step of negotiating further comprises the steps of:

assigning the next active application according to the order of priority to an available bearer service according to at least one predetermined rule; and

updating the list of available bearer services and the list of non-assigned active applications.

66. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 63, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the negotiating and updating steps are repeated while an application is active.

67. (Currently amended) Apparatus for establishing a middleware platform on top of a heterogeneous wireless network including a plurality of wireless connections in support of at least one application running at a mobile endpoint,

~~characterized by~~comprising:

a middleware platform unit adapted to detect an operational context ~~as~~ including characteristics of the mobile endpoint, characteristics of the at least one application running at the mobile endpoint, characteristics of application data to be transferred, and/or availability and capability of the at least one bearer service;

a bearer management unit adapted to dynamically optimize among bearer service providers and related ~~select at least one bearer service and~~ set up or[[/]] tear down of related wireless connections provided through the heterogeneous wireless network according to the ~~determined~~ detected operational context.

68. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 67, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~further comprising a bearer capability update unit adapted to update bearer services and related capabilities in a bearer configuration table.

69. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 67, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bearer capability update unit is adapted to update bearer capabilities in a bearer configuration table in an event driven manner or at pre-determined points in time.

70. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 67, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bearer management unit comprises a registration unit adapted to register active applications running at the mobile endpoint.

71. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 70, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the registration unit is adapted to register application requirements.

72. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 71, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the registration unit is adapted to register application requirements selected from a group comprising application configuration requirement and application priority.

73. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 67, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bearer management unit comprises a memory unit adapted to store application related information according to a selection table data structure.

74. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bearer management unit further comprises a bearer assignment modification unit adapted to:

negotiate at least one communication request existing for the active application against a bearer service and related bearer capability of the heterogeneous wireless network; and

update at least one assignment of an active application to an available bearer service in the heterogeneous wireless network in accordance with a negotiation result.

75. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 74, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bearer assignment modification unit is adapted to generate a list of active applications in order of priority and a list of available bearer services in the heterogeneous wireless network.

76. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 75, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bearer assignment modification unit is further adapted to:

assign the next active application according to the order of priority to an available bearer service according to at least one pre-determined rule; and

to update the list of available bearer services and/or related bearer capabilities and the list of non-assigned active applications.

77. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 74, ~~characterized in that~~wherein that the bearer assignment modification unit is adapted to repeat negotiation of bearer capabilities and update of available bearer services and/or related bearer services while an application is still active.

78. (Previously presented) Computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a mobile communication middleware platform comprising software code portions for performing the steps of claim 56, when the product is run on a processor of the mobile communication middleware platform.